

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 EUR-25 /092 W

----- 073114

R 131215Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5548

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1107

DEPT PASS DIA FOR AA-6

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MA, US

SUBJ: DATT AIRCRAFT IN MADAGASCAR

REF: DIA 5334 DTG 102122Z AUG73

1. DATT RECEIVED REFTEL PRIOR DEPARTING FOR MAJUNGA FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO TAKE CARE OF VISITING US NAVAL VESSEL. HE IS AWARE OF AND UNDERSTANDS THIS REPLY TO REFTEL.

2. I REGRET, JUST AS DATT DOES, GOMR DECISION THAT DATT AIRCRAFT MUST BE WITHDRAWN FROM MADAGASCAR BECAUSE OF FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO ITS CONTINUED PRESENCE AFTER WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT FROM IVATO. DECISION AS RELAYED BY FONMIN RATSIRAKA TO ASST SEC NEWSOM (STATE 149757) HAS TO BE TAKEN AS FINAL. ARGUMENTS I HAD EARLIER HOPED USE TO INDUCE GOMR ALLOW PLANE TO REMAIN WERE IN FACT USED BY NEWSOM, BUT TO NO AVAIL. THEREFORE, TO PROCEED, AS SUGGESTED REFTEL, WITH FEASIBILITY STUDY OF IN-COUNTRY MAINTENANCE BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF WRITTEN NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM GOMR WOULD RISK CREATION OF MISUNDERSTANDING, WITHOUT SERVING ANY PURPOSE.

3. HOWEVER, I DO EXPECT GOMR TO GIVE USG REASONABLE TIME TO WORK OUT ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFER ELSEWHERE OF DATT AIRCRAFT. MY INTERPRETATION OF REASONABLE TIME WOULD BE NINETY DAYS FROM DATE OF NOTIFICATION (JULY 26) OF WITHDRAWAL DECISION.

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4. I HAVE NOT TAKEN INITIATIVE TO RAISE NINETY-DAY DELAY FOR TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT WITH GOMR, BUT PLAN ADOPT THAT APPROACH IF MALAGASY BRING UP QUESTION WITH ME. I PROPOSE POINT OUT THAT FRENCH WERE ALLOWED ABOUT SAME LENGTH OF TIME TO WORK OUT ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND REMOVE THEIR PLANES AND FORCES FROM IVATO AFTER NEW FRANCO-MALAGASY AGREEMENT SIGNED. IF APPROPRIATE, I SHALL ALSO POINT OUT THAT MALAGASY ARE IN POSITION TO INFORM FRENCH THAT DECISION ALREADY TAKEN IN PRINCIPLE ABOUT WITHDRAWAL DATT AIRCRAFT AND MODALITIES NOW BEING WORKED OUT.
MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 AUG 1973
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Executive Order: GS MENDENHALL
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30 JUN 2005

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